

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 23-26, 28-39, 47 and 48 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 27 and 40 have been rewritten in independent form. The application as amended contains claims 12-22, 27 and 40-46. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

Claims 27 and 40-46 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected claims. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. To overcome the objection, claims 27 and 40 have been rewritten to include all of the limitations of the respective base claims and any intervening claims, as required.

The allowance of claims 12-22 is gratefully acknowledged. Allowance of the application with claims 12-22, 27 and 40-46 is solicited.

Dated: May 12, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Mark J. Thronson

Registration No.: 33,082

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &
OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

202-775-4742

Attorney for Applicants